

SJR21

Senate Joint Resolution Regarding the Galton Study Area / Project ("Project")

Testimony by Ron Olfert

To the Senate Natural Resource Committee

Feb. 16, 2009

I represent two groups: Montanans for Property Rights and The Sanders Natural Resource Council.

We strongly support SJR21 for the following reasons:

- (1) Wilderness Study Areas were never intended to be "in perpetuity". They should be released for multiple use according to Federal law.
- (2) The Kootenai National Forest (KNF) management has stated that expansion of wilderness is not the goal of the Galton Project and that there will be no wilderness proposals generated out of the project. However, the evidence is to the contrary when looked at as a whole. This evidence includes:
 - (a) proposed closures of roads;
 - (b) maintaining the "wilderness character" of the area;
 - (c) close match of the Galton Project boundary with the Winton Wedemeyer Proposed Wilderness boundary;

Please vote yes on this resolution.

Thank you

Ron Olfert

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